

The Sun

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1913.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month \$0.80
 DAILY, Per Year \$9.00
 SUNDAY, Per Year \$2.00
 DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year \$11.00
 DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month \$0.75
 Postage to foreign countries added.
 All checks, money orders, etc., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, excepting Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 135 Nassau street, in the City of New York, New York.
 President and Treasurer, William C. Reick, 135 Nassau street, Vice-President, Edward P. Mitchell, 135 Nassau street, Secretary, Chester S. Lord, 135 Nassau street.

London office, 11, Abchurch Lane, 1, Abchurch Lane, Strand.
 Paris office, 6, rue de la Michodière, off rue du Quatre Septembre.
 Washington office, 1115 Building.
 Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street.

If our friends who correspond with managers and contributors for publication wish to have their articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Great Social Problem Which Mr. Rockefeller Has Attacked.

We print in another column a second letter from Dr. JULIUS ROSENSTERN referring in plain language to the work of the Municipal Clinic of San Francisco, an institution which has attracted much thoughtful notice throughout the country since he, its director, described the experiment in a paper read to the recent International Congress of Hygiene at Washington.

THE SUN is fully conscious always of its responsibilities to the general reader respecting the manner of the new paper treatment of certain subjects freely discussed in the medical prints. There come times, however, when a too careful reticence is a sin of omission, a lapse in public duty; and then plain language needs no apology.

With a much wider and deeper significance than concerning the San Francisco experiment this should be true of the treatment by the New York daily newspapers of the noble and necessary undertaking publicly announced yesterday by Mr. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., in his statement about the organization and purposes of the Bureau of Social Hygiene. The spirit in which Mr. ROCKEFELLER and his competent associates, Mr. PAUL M. WARRBURG, Mr. STARR J. MURPHY and Miss KATHARINE B. DAVIS, have entered into this practical inquiry and work of high humanity is as modest as it is brave. Their attitude commands not merely respect but admiration and gratitude. And as the investigation of the bureau proceeds according to the scientific and enlightened methods indicated in the programme, the same spirit ought to mark the manner of support rendered by the press in the exercise of its duty toward its readers.

There must be plain language at times when plain language is required. The newspapers cannot do their share of the work by confining themselves always to perfunctory comment or evasive phraseology. Their readers will appreciate this fact in view of the universal importance of the social problem attacked by Mr. ROCKEFELLER in sincerity and pure-mindedness.

The Most Needed Crop.

If Agriculture has the impudence to exist after the season and long to be regretted exit of its tutelary genius, the Hon. JAMES WILSON, from his temple, what matters it to him to be his successor, the man to "rattle around" on his throne? The heart of agriculture, those prosperous, forlorned folks, has a primary fervor for another crop than any of those which the ministrations of the Department of Agriculture cause to abound. Gasoline is now the staff of life—which is motion—to millions; the skyrocketing price of gasoline makes countless thousands mourn.

The Department of Agriculture has been trying to express from any and every kind of fruit, grain, potato, a cheap, filling and energetic denatured alcohol, which, subjected to a pressure double that required for alcohol, can be used in the common gasoline engine and induced to propel the chariots of swiftness. The alcohol is the fitter worker; experiments in the Bureau of Mines have shown that. So far, however, the old story has been continued; it has not been possible to produce alcohol at an advantageous price.

Far be it from us to breathe a rash hope into so many bosoms distressed; but if the men of science in the Department of Agriculture should ever contrive a rival or supplanter of too aspirant gasoline, the head of that Department might be esteemed "a bigger man" than the head of the Administration.

The Withdrawal of the Franchise Bill Yesterday.

The ruling of the Speaker of the House of Commons that the adoption of Sir EDWARD GREY's amendment to the franchise reform bill eliminating the word "male" before "voter" in clause I would so change the character of the measure that it would be necessary to bring in a new bill came as a cruel surprise to the woman suffragists. They had been taxing Mr. ASQUITH, Mr. LLOYD GEORGE and Sir EDWARD GREY with lukewarmness in the cause, but the worst they had to fear, they thought, was the defeat of the amendment by a narrow margin of votes, leaving them the prestige of a fight almost won with the promise of a great triumph later on. The Speaker's ruling now appears in the light of a relief to a Government which did not want any of the woman suffrage amendments to come to a vote.

The women and their male sympathizers will believe to the end of time that they have been the victims of a shrewd and sordid parliamentary trick.

They had expected great things from the conciliation bill which passed its second reading in the House in the spring of 1911 by a vote of 255 to 88. This bill provided that women householders should have the ballot. Mr. ASQUITH, according to the suffragettes, promised that the measure should be pressed in good faith at the next session. But when Parliament met again the Government brought forward the franchise reform bill, the purpose of which was to substitute for qualified male suffrage a system that would practically amount to manhood suffrage. Even if the conciliation bill were enacted the number of women qualified to vote would be small, and assuming that the franchise reform measure became a law there would not be equal suffrage. But there was no satisfactory assurance that the conciliation bill would be taken up for final passage. Mr. ASQUITH at this juncture announced that the franchise reform bill would be open to woman suffrage amendments. To open the door to them Sir EDWARD GREY introduced his amendment dropping the word "male" from the following:

"Subject to the provisions of this act every male person shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for his constituency."

The Speaker's sudden ruling slammed the door in the face of the woman suffragists. For this session apparently the irrepressible issue is a little heap of ashes, not dead but smouldering. Presently it will burst forth into flames of resentment, for if the women have not a clear case of bad faith against the Government, it can be indicted at the bar of public opinion for sharp practices. It will be an ingenious Cabinet officer that can frame a plausible defence.

Governor Sulzer and the Stock Exchange.

The Governor's message on stock exchange reform is on the whole a temperate, well reasoned document. The abuses which he exhibits, such as the manipulation of stocks by means of fictitious transactions converted in advance for the purpose of deceiving investors and affecting prices, are generally recognized and corrigible by law, and he urges prompt enactment on the subject. He draws the proper distinction between short sales that are legitimate and the perversion of short selling that is wrongful. He asks for the prohibition by law of the practice of trading against customers' orders; that is, of contemporaneous sales by the brokers on their own account of the same stocks which they have been ordered to buy for their customers. He asks for a clearer definition of the conditions of business under impending insolvency; for more stringent penal provisions as to bucket shops; for a law making it criminal to publish statements, known to be false or not fairly justified by existing conditions, as to the value of securities. Finally, he follows the example of Governor HUGHES's committee in refraining from recommending the incorporation of the exchanges.

The advice which the Governor gives to the members of the Stock Exchange about the importance of preserving or regaining the full confidence of the investing public is sound and sensible. It may be remarked in general that much that is said in his message coincides closely with the views constantly expressed by many of the stock brokers themselves.

The Bachelor Dinner on the Eve of the Serious Ceremony.

The next President of the United States lets his rhetoric loose in an article entitled "Freemen Need No Guardians," printed in the *World's Work* for February. Fortunately, it is not his inaugural address or his first message to Congress. These documents, we have no doubt, will be characterized by propriety of reasoning and dignity of expression.

When rhetoric is running amuck and logic has taken itself to the most accessible doorway we get such grotesque results as are seen in the juxtaposition of these two unrelated parts of Dr. WILSON's latest essay:

"I don't want a smug lot of experts to sit down behind closed doors in Washington and play Providence to me. There is a Providence to which I am perfectly willing to submit. But as for other men setting up as Providence over myself, I seriously object. I have never met a political saviour in the flesh and I never expect to see one. I am reminded of GLETT BUSINESS's verses:

"I never saw a purple cow,
 I never hope to see one;
 But this I tell you anyhow,
 I'd rather see than be one."

"That is the way I feel about this saving of my fellow countrymen. I'd rather see a saviour of the United States than set up to be one; because I have found out, I have actually found out, that men I consult with know more than I do—especially if I consult with enough of them."

"As a university president I learned that the men who dominate our manufacturing processes could not conduct their business for twenty-four hours without the assistance of the experts with whom the universities are supplying them. . . . I know that men not catalogued in the public prints, men not spoken of in public discussions, are the very brain and sinew of the industry of the United States."

Sometimes, as we are told, even the bridegroom gets drunk the night before the wedding. Why should not the Doctor be allowed to experience, during these remaining weeks, the joys of intoxication with the exuberance of his own verbosity?

The Right Man at Constantinople.

It is a source of satisfaction that in the crisis at Constantinople the United States is represented by such an experienced and accomplished diplomat as the Hon. WILLIAM W. ROCKHILL. His career in the service dates from 1884, when he was appointed second secretary at the legation in Pekin. His adventurous missions to the interior of China and Tibet were productive of valuable scientific information. After several

years of duty as chief clerk and assistant secretary in the State Department he was successively appointed Minister to Greece, Rumania and Serbia, and Ambassador to China, Russia and Turkey. He was sent as plenipotentiary to the Congress of Berlin convened to settle the Balkan troubles. President YUAN SHIH-KAI recently offered Mr. ROCKHILL the place of Special Cabinet Adviser. He is one of the greatest American authorities on the Orient and its politics, and he is an admirable linguist.

As a graduate of the military school of St. Cyr Mr. ROCKHILL is something of an expert on military matters and can deal with them intelligently. Familiar with political intrigue at St. Petersburg and Constantinople, practical, cool headed and resolute, Ambassador ROCKHILL is the right man on the spot in a grave emergency. His career, it may be said incidentally, is an unanswerable argument for promotion in the diplomatic service solely on merit.

Equal Rights for All.

The Hon. JOHN KNIGHT SHIELDS, Chief Justice of Tennessee, was chosen Senator in Congress last week. Elected by a combination of Democrats, Independent Democrats and Republicans, Judge SHIELDS is an unrelenting Democrat and is going to support Mr. WILSON. Shortly before his election he answered sympathetically and affirmatively certain questions put by a committee of labor leaders. This is one of those questions:

"Will you favor and vote for an amendment to the Sherman antitrust law that will exempt labor organizations and farmers organizations from the provisions of the law?"

Judge SHIELDS replied with due meekness and shuddered in the sense expected of him by his inquisitors, a sense which, coming from a Judge, is not without an interest of curiosity.

"I also favor an amendment to the Sherman antitrust law which will exempt organizations made for the purpose of advancing the interests and protecting laboring men and farmers, in other words, labor and farmer organizations, from the provisions of that act, the same to be done in such manner as not to affect the constitutionality and effectiveness of the law to control, suppress and destroy the great corporations and trusts created for the purpose of controlling the commerce, money, manufacturing and other property interests of the country."

It will be remembered that in the earlier days of the war against trusts the Legislatures of some States, such as Illinois and Texas, sought to exempt associations of farmers and laborers from the provisions of the antitrust laws. The efficacy of the courts blocked these benevolent efforts. Now Judge SHIELDS, a Democrat thoroughly steeped in the hallowed Democratic doctrine of "equal rights for all, special privileges for none," commits himself to the immunity of those privileged orders, so dear to every feeling statesman, from the claws of the Sherman act. The amendment, which the layman might find difficult in point of constitutionality, is superfluous in any case. Imagine an Administration, an Attorney-General that would dare to bring suit against those pillars of the people's hope. None the less it is refreshing to see a statesman who is penetrated with the principle of equality.

OSMAN NIZAMI Pasha, the leader of the Turkish delegation, remarked with a significant smile: "He knows best who laughs last—*Frenchman from London*."

History records a good many sayings of actors in great events that were never spoken; but assuming the incident to be true it gives color to the story that since the Peace Conference assembled in London the Turkish delegates have been "playing" for delay.

The *Register* stands for the initiative and referendum measures so ably championed by Mr. WOODROW WILSON, President-elect. *Mobile Register*.

This Alabama confession of faith came to our eyes just before a Jefferson City dispatch in the *Kansas City Journal* of January 24, wherefrom is derived this melancholy intelligence of reaction:

"The fight on the initiative and the referendum is assuming great proportions in the House. Members are examined with petitions from constituents asking its repeal. Petitions filed in the House today asking for initiative and referendum, by Republican, Buchanan, Jackson, Schuyler, Ray, Osage, Henry, Linn, Benton, Clay, Perry, Charlton, Cooper, Dunn, Wright, Selme, Lincoln, Pettis, Montgomery, Case and Davises."

Virtue will win in Missouri as in Alabama, but how depressing and bilious, especially on a rainy day, looks this backsliding in the State of BEAUCHAMP CLARK, JIM REED and GUN SHOT BILL.

To WILLIAM J. RAY of Hartford, Conn., who at 106 was fined in the City Court yesterday for illegal liquor selling, we would give one word of warning. Bad habits formed in youth become increasingly hard to shake off; if he does not mend his behavior he will turn out a bad lot when he grows up.

A Foe of the "Too-Too" Style.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: In today's SUN you announce a letter for two much "very good, but not direct" your systems, the hyphenated initials that ruin a good story and exasperate one beyond measure by their "and then and then," "but perhaps but perhaps," "interference," "I," "and so on." S. L. READING, JR., JANUARY 25.

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXPERIMENT.

Another Letter From Dr. Rosenstern on His Work in the Municipal Clinic.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: Your journal was the only one among the American press that has done me the honor to print the sanitary regulation of the sexual traffic in the Municipal Clinic of San Francisco which I read before the International Congress of Hygiene in Washington, and you were kind enough to comment upon it graciously.

You lately published a letter from me describing the character and purpose of the work of this institution. I want again to plead for the adoption of a sane and humane modern sanitary regulation of the sexual traffic where in our large cities it is needed.

The advisory committee of the San Francisco Municipal Clinic looks back on nearly two years of what it deems pioneer work in that direction, and a reasonably satisfactory success has filled it with courage for its energetic continuance and for an unreserved recommendation of this system, more or less modified by local conditions. The great Rabbi Ben Akiba says "there is nothing new under the sun." Sanitary regulation of the sexual traffic does not claim to be an exception; it has been practised for many decades in Europe, and even a few American cities have introduced a more or less diluted adaptation. What the advisory committee of the Municipal Clinic of San Francisco claims as the unique distinguishing features of its institution, also believes to be the features that have helped to insure its success.

These features are: First, a non-political-honorary committee of private citizens—two physicians, one lawyer, one clergyman, the superintendent of public schools and two business men having absolute control of its management, and asking no contribution from the taxpayers. This independence makes it possible that positions are retained for merit only, and prohibitive measures against graft can be enforced. The requirements for semi-weekly examination are intended to keep the patients from loafing. An examination fee of 50 cents pays for all expenses and gives a slowly growing surplus fund to be used in time for the purchase and running of an interim home in the country for the housing of those girls who wish to reenter the self-respecting ranks of society until they can be safely launched upon their new life journey.

Secondly, the absolutely fair and kind treatment of these girls by the clinic is like that of private patients. When ill they have their choice between their own private physicians and the gratuitous treatment by our clinicians. When necessary, through sickness or financial distress, hospital accommodations are furnished, which the clinic pays for in order not to subject its patients to class demonstration, only the cure must be confirmed by the clinic's doctors.

Thirdly, the humane relations established between the physicians and the employees of the clinic and the patients make it possible that in the absence of all direct missionary efforts many girls are reclaimed. Neophytes are prevented at the threshold of disgrace from entering this life; minors are taken and brought to education in reformatory institutions, and last but not least white slaves are reclaimed and convicted.

Fourthly, in private house examinations are recognized and the doctors of the clinic are barred, on penalty of dismissal, from taking any of the clinic's clients as private patients; nor do they know the name or residence of the clients passed to them; they come assigned, with the current number of the day only.

This prevents any undue influence being exercised upon the examining physician. The same penalty threatens the acceptance of any gratuity offered to the physicians or employees of the clinic.

Through the activity of this institution the morbidity among these unfortunates has been reduced from the initial rate of 149 a thousand to a fairly constant rate of 50 a thousand during the last twelve months of observation.

I shall not enter here upon our system of control, which has, while gentle in its method, been rendered most satisfactory in its effect by the assistance of only two specially detailed intelligent policemen, whose duties consist in looking up the delinquents for examinations.

Official visitors from many cities throughout our country have recognized its efficiency and through reports to the home authorities have brought us many inquiries for the purpose of its adoption.

It is true that while white slaves should be punished to the fullest extent of the severest laws, under the workings of such an institution the laws against the social evil have to be handled with gloves as far as the women are concerned. But why not? The great results in this world's progress of civilization have been obtained by evolution, not by revolution. The sudden, severe and unrelenting suppression of this traffic has never attained its ends. The evil has never been appreciably eradicated, but has fled into the darkest hiding places and from there sends its poisonous arrows into the heart of the populace. Dogma, cant and hymns are of scant benefit. Sanitary control of germ carriers is the watchword of modern hygiene. Why exempt these germ carriers, the most deadly of all, from this control? Establish municipal clinics where even needed and as many as possible.

A preventive sanitary control stands not in the way of social reforms for the financial betterment of the working girl or of uplifting educational efforts.

We have found that our honest and humane endeavors have been generally warmly appreciated by these pariahs of society; and to our mind a firm but kind and humane watch over their health, a gentle care when ill, will better prepare a soil for the seeds of intellectual and moral reform than the relics of a barbarous age of law, arms and scimitar letters. JULIUS ROSENSTERN, M. D., Chairman of the Advisory Committee, SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 21.

Effect of the Cardinal Points on Rest and Work.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: The theory of the four points in the north-south direction, of no less an authority than Baron de Reichenbach, the famous Vienna savant.

Another savant, Dr. F. H. of Paris, after many experiments has recognized the fact that the human body is a sensitive organ, but completed the observations of Baron de Reichenbach by establishing that when at rest the orientation is better if taking a west-east position, the face when turning to the north and above all to the south giving as a result a feeling of about 50 per cent. of our neuromuscular excitation and of our aptitude to work.

If these facts were published by THE SUN I think that the net of many an office desk might be changed as to place. H. DE L'E. NEW YORK, JANUARY 27.

THE NAUTICAL SCHOOL.

A Valuable Auxiliary to the Merchant Marine and Not a Reformatory.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: According to the statements attributed to members of the National Council on Education of the Board of Education the public considers the school as a sort of reformatory. Perhaps this is true to a certain extent, but it is so because no pains have been taken by the authorities to discount the idea. As a matter of fact no public school in the greater city is more careful in the selection of applicants for entrance. The first requirement is a certificate of character before an applicant can submit to examinations. The examination itself is severe enough to require a full grammar school education, and the course of study on the ship embraces higher mathematics, engineering, electricity, seamanship and commercial geography, and officers, who also conduct the various classes, are for the most part graduates of Annapolis and commissioned officers in the United States navy, more competent than many of the public school teachers. It happens occasionally that a sailor cadet, who is a cadetship, but Captain E. H. Tillman, U. S. N., the superintendent, soon discovers the mistake, and no time is lost in ridding the ship of the cadet.

A visit to the ship will convince any one that it is not a reformatory, but a school, and the cadets will impress every one with their willing submission to the discipline which goes to make a seaman and master worthy of confidence.

Before passing any law contemplated to suppress the abolition of the Nautical School the Legislature should take counsel with the shipping interests of the city and State. With the opening of the Panama Canal in the near future those in control of shipping and navigation better informed as to the wisdom of discontinuing the school than the members of the city Board of Education.

Give the school ship another chance and at the same time publish to the whole city and State what it can do for the boys, and then instead of sixty cadets there will be more applicants for admission than the Newport can accommodate. S. C. P. O. BROOKLYN, JANUARY 27.

GORGAS AND GOETHALS.

The Work of the Latter Impossible Without That of the Former.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: The attempt to force a distinction into the work of Dr. Wilson on racial and religious grounds should fail. Whether he is of Irish and Catholic extraction and belief or of Jewish or French or Scotch descent and a Unitarian or Unitarian, is immaterial under the form of his recognition. The men named in this connection are fit enough, but we want Americans. Let the race prejudices rest or remain in Europe, where they may have some justification. NEW YORK, JANUARY 25. J. JOHNSON.

Not "Irish" Catholics.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: Irishmen who have proved themselves capable in all walks of life, in peace as well as in war, in this land of liberty are undoubtedly worthy of the same recognition as those of other races. The recognition of Irishmen of the Catholic faith as "Irish Catholics" is the Irish race kept the faith of St. Patrick inviolate. They fought, suffered starvation and death for the faith, but they were not Catholics. There are no distinctions either in race or color in the Catholic Church, and should be none, so I trust that for the words "Irish Catholic" now being used the words "Irishmen of the Catholic faith" be substituted.

It is to be hoped that the President-elect will demonstrate in a marked way his appreciation of Irish Americans, who are always in the field to fight for Democratic supremacy. W. H. DOWNES. BROOKLYN, JANUARY 25.

INSOMNIA.

A French Cosmopolitan's Prescription to Hail It.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: To your friend of Cleveland who complains so much of insomnia I should like to advise a little infusion of the tree of life. A hot cup of it will drive away the evil spirits and the evil influence has cured myself of repeated insomnia. In the Bronx these trees are plentiful and every year I make an ample provision of the flowers, which are a remedy for many troubles.

Another remedy for insomnia is a hay pillow, but the trouble with it is that you often wake up with pollen in your head and a bad mood, particularly when the hay has been cut in the south exactly in rapport with the evil influence of the globe. The windows of the bedroom must be open a little even on the coldest nights; there should not be too many blankets. A walk and a bath before bed will do no harm; then turn the steam heat off, drink a cup of Linden tree flowers and go to bed with only one thought, that you must absolutely sleep.

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Protestant and Catholic in Ireland.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: The writer of the letter which appears in the SUN of January 25 might have included in addition to the Protestants enumerated among distinguished Irish politicians the name of William Butt, the founder of the Land League.

I suppose the reason that Protestants come so much more to the front arises from the fact that they are blessed with a larger share of wealth and also as a rule receive a wider and more elaborate education than Catholics in Ireland. Besides, one must remember that probably 90 per cent. of the Catholic population in Ireland is made up of the poorer classes, such as peasants, small shopkeepers, farmers, etc., who have a hard struggle to get on, and who, naturally, find difficulty in educating their children, especially if they attempt to realize the ambition of every peasant Catholic household, of having one son in the priesthood and the other in the police. GLOSTER ARMSTRONG. NEW YORK, JANUARY 25.

"Little Mac."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: I have written a number of letters to Mrs. Finley J. Sheppard of New York, but have never been able to persuade myself to mail one. Now that congratulations are in order, I wish to acknowledge my appreciation of the kindness of her father, JAY GOULD.

In 1871 I was selling papers on the streets of New York. Mr. Gould often bought papers of me. One day he asked me to come into his office and work for him. He then told J. Holmes, Superintendent of telegraphs, to give me something to do, and I got a position as messenger boy. I learned to telegraph under and by the help of the manager of the office, Mr. Sampson. Afterward I was promoted to the position of agent, and I have always felt grateful for the helping hand extended when it meant so much to a friendless and almost homeless boy, extremely rude question as to be. "Well, sir, I used to be nineteen." QUILL DRIVER. BROOKLYN, JANUARY 27.

Are Americans Polite?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: Are Americans, meaning by that the people who live in the United States, a polite people? If they are, why is it that so many are polite only when in the company of those who are not? Why are the poor class disposed to be indifferent to the gentler graces unless they feel that there is "something in it for them"? If they were impolite through ignorance of good manners there might be some excuse, but they are not, because if they were how would they know how to be polite when it is to their interest to be so? NEW YORK, JANUARY 27. SAVOIR FAIR.

The Best Claim Checker.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: I never knew two cooks to make clam chowder alike. All chowder is good; but is there one recipe that in that manner is considered the best and regular work and are retired from active service is this true? F. M. COLLINSON. PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 31.

PALACE OF ARTS IN CENTRAL PARK.

Would It Be an Invasion in the Sense Now Abhorred?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: On January 15 the National Council on Education of the Board of Education the public considers the school as a sort of reformatory. Perhaps this is true to a certain extent, but it is so because no pains have been taken by the authorities to discount the idea. As a matter of fact no public school in the greater city is more careful in the selection of applicants for entrance. The first requirement is a certificate of character before an applicant can submit to examinations. The examination itself is severe enough to require a full grammar school education, and the course of study on the ship embraces higher mathematics, engineering, electricity, seamanship and commercial geography, and officers, who also conduct the various classes, are for the most part graduates of Annapolis and commissioned officers in the United States navy, more competent than many of the public school teachers. It happens occasionally that a sailor cadet, who is a cadetship, but Captain E. H. Tillman, U. S. N., the superintendent, soon discovers the mistake, and no time is lost in ridding the ship of the cadet.

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RELIGION IN POLITICS.

No Racial or Religious Prejudices or Privileges.

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